



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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KENTUCKY FFA MEMBERS EXCEL AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky FFA students and advisers won numerous awards at the 89th Annual FFA Convention held Oct. 19-22 in Indianapolis. More than 64,000 FFA members, advisers and guests attended the convention, which is the largest youth organization gathering in the United States.

Spencer County FFA won the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). Members of the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Team included Michael Bentley (fourth overall), Maxwell Dippel (seventh overall), John Brumley (sixth overall) and David Williamson (second overall). Adviser Bland Baird served as coach of the Dairy Evaluation Team. This is the seventh time since 2006 that Spencer County has won the national Dairy Evaluation CDE.

Terry Napier, a Madison Southern FFA (Madison County) member, was one of four national finalists for the American Star in Agribusiness Award based on his American Degree application which highlighted his development of a successful lawn care business. Napier was selected as a finalist for the award, the highest given by FFA, from more than 3,000 applicants from across the nation.

Taylor County FFA was selected as one of 10 national finalists for the Model of Excellence Award, placing the chapter among the top 10 in the nation. The award is based on the chapter's work in the areas of Student Development, Chapter Development and Community Development.

Boyle County FFA was selected as one of 10 national finalists for the Model of Innovation Award in the area of Community Development, placing them among the top 10 chapters in the nation in the area of Community Development.

Six Kentucky FFA members were selected as national proficiency award finalists in their respective areas. They were:

- Morgan Jones, Madison Central, Equine Entrepreneurship
- Turner Cottrell, LaRue County, Fiber and Oil Crop Production
- Emily Herndon, Spencer County, Food Science and Technology
- Wyatt Wood, McCracken County, Forage Production
- John Brumley, Spencer County, Landscape Management
- Ethan Ellis, Boyle County, Swine Production Entrepreneurship

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Proficiency awards are based on a written application detailing the student's accomplishments and learning related to his or her Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. National finalists complete an in-depth interview with industry leaders as part of the selection process.

Several Kentucky chapters placed in the top 10 in national Career Development Events:

- Spencer County FFA placed third in the Farm Business Management Career Development Event. Team members were Cameron Beck, Makenna Cox, Connor Foster and Briar Honeycutt. All four team members received a national gold emblem rating.
- Central Hardin FFA (Hardin County) placed third in the Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event. Team members were Mattie Mink, Mason Goodin, Keri Hodges, George Board, Callie Condiff and Shelby Sanford.
- North Laurel FFA (Laurel County) placed seventh in the Environmental Science Career Development Event. Team members were Travis Lewis, Emily Hayre, Kelly Fields and Thomas Callahan.
- Boyle County FFA placed ninth in the Agronomy Career Development Event. Team members were Alexis Sosh, Makayla Richter, Sarah Ann Randall and Adriana Crockett.

Other teams/individuals competing in National Career Development Events included:

CDE AREA	RATING	CHAPTER
Agriculture Communications	Silver	LaRue County
Agriculture Sales	Silver	Calloway County
Agriculture Technology and Mechanical Systems	Bronze	South Warren (Warren County)
Creed Speaking	Silver	Journey Wooten, Lincoln County
Dairy Cattle Handlers	Silver	Justin Hornback, LaRue County
Extemporaneous Speaking	Silver	Cody Burke, Fleming County
Floriculture	Silver	Franklin Simpson (Simpson County)
Food Science	Silver	Spencer County
Forestry	Silver	McCreary Central
Horse Evaluation	Silver	Central Hardin
Job Interview	Bronze	Garrett Stanfield, Mason County
Livestock Evaluation	Silver	Taylor County
Marketing Plan	Silver	Spencer County
Meats Evaluation	Silver	Spencer County
Milk Quality and Products	Silver	LaRue County
Nursery	Silver	Spencer County
Parliamentary Procedure	Bronze	Boyle County
Poultry	Silver	Calloway County
Prepared Public Speaking	Bronze	Callaway Stivers, Locust Trace (Fayette County)
Veterinary Science	Silver	Locust Trace (Fayette County)

Fifteen Kentucky FFA members placed in the top 15 in the FFA Agriscience Fair. They were:

- Environmental Science Division 2: Rebekah Cowherd, Taylor County
- Food Products Division 4: Kaitlin Chandler and Emily Wilson, South Warren (Warren County)
- Plant Systems Division 1: Seyan Perry, Franklin-Simpson (Simpson County)

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- Plant Systems Division 2: Dalton England and Justin Page, Franklin-Simpson (Simpson County)
- Plant Systems Division 4: Sarah Ann Randall and Makayla Richter, Boyle County
- Power Structure and Technical Systems Division 1: Ben James, Franklin-Simpson (Simpson County)
- Power Structure and Technical Systems Division 4: Justin Arnett and Caleb Fitzpatrick, Montgomery County
- Social Systems Division 1: Jenna Robertson, Franklin-Simpson (Simpson County)
- Social Systems Division 2: Grace Clark, Franklin-Simpson (Simpson County)
- Social Systems Division 3: Zoe Cannon and Amber Dotson, Montgomery County

The American FFA Degree was awarded to 116 Kentucky FFA members. This honor is the highest award the organization can bestow on a member.

Fifteen Kentucky FFA chapters were recognized in the National Chapter Contest. Bourbon County, Boyle County, Henderson County, Henry County, LaRue County, Marion County, Nelson County, Scott County, Spencer County and Taylor County were recognized as National Three Star Chapters. Jessamine County, Rockcastle County, Russell County, South Warren and Thomas Nelson were recognized as National Two Star Chapters.

Other awards for Kentucky students at the national convention included:

- James Kash of the Lee County FFA represented Kentucky as a National Officer Candidate.
- Wyatt Wood of McCracken County and Jerrett Davis of Ohio County represented Kentucky in the National FFA Talent.
- Ty Allen of Madison Southern (Madison County), Madeline Smith of Western Hills (Franklin County), and Parker Stewart of Bracken County represented Kentucky in the National FFA Band.
- Amber Ridgeway of South Warren FFA (Warren County) represented Kentucky in the National FFA Chorus.
- The North Hardin FFA (Hardin County) and Thomas Nelson FFA (Nelson County) chapters represented Kentucky in the National Hall of States.

For a complete listing of winners, visit <https://www.ffa.org/events/convention/2016-results>.

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